

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/711,895

Examiner

Richard M. Lorence

Applicant(s)

SETTINERI, SAMUEL E.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application papers filed on October 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/12/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060223 .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffrey Chapp on February 23, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In lines 2-3 of each of claims 27 and 28 "air is forced" has been changed to - - comprises forcing air - -.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record shows or suggests a clutch assembly including a clutch housing, a rotating shaft, a liner, a clutch spring and a spring carrier arranged together in the manner set forth in claim 1, and particularly wherein the spring carrier comprises at least one passage for fluid pressure adjustment within a clutch spring area.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a clutch assembly including a clutch housing, a rotating shaft, a liner, a clutch spring and a spring carrier arranged together in the manner set forth in claim 13, and particularly wherein the spring carrier comprises at least one axial passage for transfer of fluid through the spring carrier.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a fluidically controlled fan drive system including a fan, a clutch assembly, a solenoid and a controller arranged together in the manner set forth in claim 23, and particularly wherein the clutch assembly includes a spring carrier with at least one passage for fluid pressure adjustment within a clutch spring area.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a method of operating a clutch assembly comprising the step of adjusting air pressure within a clutch spring via a spring carrier having at least one passage in combination with the remainder of the method steps recited in claim 26.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a clutch assembly including a clutch housing, a rotating shaft, a liner, a clutch spring and a piston rod arranged together in the manner set forth in claim 29, and particularly wherein the piston rod comprises a fluid channel for fluid pressure actuation of the clutch spring, and at least one passage for fluid pressure adjustment within a clutch spring area.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on October 12, 2004 has been considered by the examiner.


Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dodge (US 2,637,308 A), Elmer (US 3,777,866 A), Hall et al. (US 3,985,214 A) and Hall et al. (US 4,830,161 A) each show fan clutches which are engaged by a spring and disengaged by fluid pressure acting in opposition to the force of the spring.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is (571) 272-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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Lorence/rml